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Question: What is the difference between the risk based performance standards (RBPS) Guidance Document and the DHS Guidance for the Expedited Approval Program?

Answer: The risk-based performance standards (RBPS) Guidance document was developed to assist high-risk chemical facilities in selecting and implementing appropriate protective measures and practices. The document does not establish legally enforceable requirements for facilities subject to Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), but rather provides examples of measures and practices that a facility may choose to consider as part of its overall strategy to address the RBPS.

The DHS Guidance for the Expedited Approval Program (EAP) was developed pursuant to the CFATS Act of 2014 (The Act). The Act directed DHS to issue prescriptive guidance that “identifies specific security measures that are sufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards.” This document provides the statutorily required guidance to facilities in tiers 3 or 4 that choose to participate in the Expedited Approval Program. A security plan submitted through the EAP must comply with this prescriptive guidance or must identify any material deviations and explain how the deviations meet the RBPS in accordance with the Guidance.